

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and a method for managing access to a smart card by allowing authentication for each application (process) in response to access requests from a plurality of applications and processes. When an application containing a plurality of access processes for a smart card issues an access request for the smart card, the application issues an exclusive access request to an exclusion control mechanism, and issues the access request to an access control mechanism if the application is allowed exclusive access. If the application has not been authenticated, the access control mechanism prompts the application to input a PIN. If the application has already been authenticated, the access control mechanism permits the application to access the smart card. The application issues an exclusive access request/cancellation in an accessing process unit.

Although a plurality of applications share a smart card, each application can be authenticated individually. The overhead from an authenticating process can be reduced.